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PROPOSED CONTEST CHANGES FOR 2016

MASTER CATEGORY: LOCAL JOURNALISM

(OLD NAME: WEEKLY NEWS-LOCAL WEBSITE)

CHANGES IN ITALICS

CURRENT

NEW

LOCAL NEWS – best coverage of a story or series by a stand-alone news organization or affiliated with a print or broadcast entity.	<i>Best coverage of a local news story. Story must be breaking news or fresh coverage of an event or issue of primary interest to an individual municipality or local area, produced under deadline pressure.</i>
PROFILE WRITING -- For a well-written and well-researched article profiling an individual or organization either as a feature story or as a sidebar to a news story, i.e., a profile of a newsmaker.	Combined into a single feature writing award. (See Feature Writing)
PUBLIC SERVICE -- This award recognizes a news organization that renders a public service through extensive coverage of an issue facing the community it serves or society. Reporting may be conducted by one reporter or a team. Entries may be a single or a series of no more than five parts. Commercially sponsored programs are ineligible unless controlled and produced by the news organization	SAME
REVIEW WRITING -- For a critical review of a play, movie, concert, record or CD, book, restaurant, art, car or other such subject. Judges will consider both the quality and persuasiveness of the writing and the piece's usefulness to potential consumers.	Combined into a single commentary writing award, with news columns and essays.
SPORTS REPORTING -- For an article displaying superior journalistic performance in covering sports.	SAME
AWBREY AWARD FOR COMMUNITY-ORIENTED LOCAL JOURNALISM WILL REMAIN THE SAME	SAME
TIM O'BRIEN AWARD FOR BEST USE OF THE OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS LAW WILL REMAIN THE SAME	(except there will be no third place)
BARTO AWARD FOR "ROOKIES OF THE YEAR" (BEST FIRST-YEAR JOURNALISTS) WILL REMAIN THE SAME	SAME
STATE OR REGIONAL NEWS -- Best state or regional news coverage of a NJ-based state,	Best state or regional news coverage of a NJ-based state, regional or national event by a weekly

regional or national event by a weekly newspaper or local or statewide news website.	newspaper or local or statewide news website. (Eliminate 'or statewide.')
BUSINESS REPORTING -- For an article displaying superior journalistic performance in covering business, finance, economics or consumer issues.	SAME
DEADLINE REPORTING -- For superior coverage of a newsworthy event produced under deadline pressure. Entries judged on initiative, accuracy, completeness and writing quality	ELIMINATE (Incorporated in Local News category)
COMMENTARY -- For a single editorial, column or essay, or series of related editorials, columns or essays, that takes a stand on an important local, state or national subject. The ability of the writer to present the facts fairly while marshaling a logical and persuasive argument will be a major consideration, along with brevity and wit.	SAME
ENTERPRISE/SERIES/INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING -- For a multi-part series of articles labeled as such and appearing in two or more issues. Entries must give readers an in-depth look at a significant topic. Judging will be on overall journalistic performance, including the ability to be comprehensive and fair while remaining accessible and compelling to readers.	For a multi-part series of articles labeled as such and appearing in two or more issues, <i>or multiple articles in a single issue on a single topic</i> . Entries must give readers an in-depth look at a significant topic. Judging will be on overall journalistic performance, including the ability to be comprehensive and fair while remaining accessible and compelling to readers.
FEATURE WRITING -- For a well-written article dealing in an interesting and creative way with a subject that would not be considered breaking news." Profiles of newsmakers may be submitted under this category. Stories will be judged on initiative, accuracy, completeness and writing quality.	SAME (Profile category eliminated)
HEADLINE WRITING	ELIMINATED
HEALTH, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING -- For an article displaying superior journalistic performance in covering health, science, technology or the environment.	SAME
PAGE ONE DESIGN -- For the best Page One design, considering use of art, informative graphics, well-placed stories and general cohesiveness and appearance.	ELIMINATED

MASTER CATEGORY: NON-LOCAL JOURNALISM

(COMBINES DAILY AND NON-LOCAL WEBSITE CATEGORIES, AND ADDING ON STATEWIDE PRINT WEEKLIES)

Current	New
STATE OR REGIONAL NEWS -- Best state or regional news coverage of a NJ-based state, regional or national event, written under deadline pressure.	<i>Same except for addition of non-local websites and statewide print weeklies competing against statewide print dailies</i>
BEST LOCAL NEWS -- Best local news coverage of a story or series by a stand-alone news organization or an affiliate of a print or broadcast entity.	<i>Best coverage of a local news event or issue by a daily newspaper, non-local website or statewide print weekly. Includes single stories or continuing coverage.</i>
BUSINESS COVERAGE -- For an article displaying superior journalistic performance in covering business, finance, economics or consumer issues.	SAME, EXCEPT AS DESCRIBED ABOVE
COLUMN WRITING -- For a single bylined column taking an original stand on an interesting or important subject. The ability of the writer to simultaneously instruct, persuade and hold interest will be a major consideration. (Sports columns are eligible.)	SAME
DEADLINE REPORTING -- For superior coverage of a newsworthy event produced under deadline pressure. Entries judged on initiative, accuracy, completeness and writing quality	ELIMINATED
ENTERPRISE/SERIES/INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING -- For a multi-part series of articles labeled as such and appearing in two or more issues. Entries must give readers an in-depth look at a significant topic. Judging will be on overall journalistic performance, including the ability to be comprehensive and fair while remaining accessible and compelling to readers.	For a multi-part series of articles labeled as such and appearing in two or more issues, <i>or multiple articles in a single issue on the same topic</i> . Entries must give readers an in-depth look at a significant topic. Judging will be on overall journalistic performance, including the ability to be comprehensive and fair while remaining accessible and compelling to readers.
FEATURE WRITING -- For a well-written article dealing in an interesting and creative way with a subject that would not be considered "hard news." It will be judged on initiative, accuracy, completeness and writing quality.	For a well-written article dealing in an interesting and creative way with a subject that would not be considered "hard news." It will be judged on initiative, accuracy, completeness and writing quality. <i>This category includes profile stories.</i>
HEADLINE WRITING	ELIMINATED
HEALTH, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING -- For an article displaying superior journalistic performance in covering health, science, technology or the environment.	SAME
PAGE ONE DESIGN	ELIMINATED

<p>PROFILE WRITING -- For a well-written and well-researched article profiling an individual or organization either as a feature story or as a sidebar to a news story, i.e., a profile of a newsmaker.</p>	FOLDED INTO FEATURE CATEGORY
<p>PUBLIC SERVICE -- this award recognizes a news organization that renders a public service through extensive coverage of an issue facing the community it serves or society. Reporting may be conducted by one reporter or a team. Entries may be a single or a series of no more than five parts. Commercially sponsored programs are ineligible unless controlled and produced by the news organization</p>	SAME
<p>REVIEW WRITING --For a critical review of a play, movie, concert, record or CD, book, restaurant, art, car or other such subject. Judges will consider both the quality and persuasiveness of the writing and the piece's usefulness to potential consumers.</p>	SAME
<p>SPORTS REPORTING -- For an article displaying superior journalistic performance in covering sports. (Please note: Sports columns are not eligible. See Column Writing.)</p>	For an article displaying superior journalistic performance in covering sports. (<i>Sports columns WOULD be eligible</i>)
<p>TIM O'BRIEN AWARD FOR THE BEST USE OF THE OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS LAW</p>	SAME, EXCEPT THIRD PLACE WOULD BE ELIMINATED
<p>WILSON BARTO "ROOKIE OF THE YEAR" AWARD FOR BEST FIRST-YEAR JOURNALISTS</p>	SAME

OTHER CATEGORIES

<p>BEST WEB VIDEO -- Submit a video showing best use of web video to tell your story.</p>	<p>SAME (<i>except it becomes its own separate division, rescued from Non-Local Online division. Open to all contestants whether affiliated with a big organization or not</i>)</p>
<p>RADIO NEWS -- Awards will be presented for outstanding achievement in radio and television journalism in two categories: News and Enterprise. This award is for Radio News. Among the criteria used by judges will be fairness, courage, vigor of presentation, clarity of style, enterprise, artistry and restraint. Entries from broadcast or cable outlets licensed outside New Jersey must be about New Jersey subjects to be eligible.</p>	<p>Best achievement in radio coverage of a breaking or hard-news story. Among the criteria used by judges will be fairness, courage, vigor of presentation, clarity of style, enterprise, artistry and restraint. Entries from broadcast or cable outlets licensed outside New Jersey must be about New Jersey subjects to be eligible.</p>
<p>RADIO ENTERPRISE -- Awards will be presented for outstanding achievement in radio and television journalism in two categories: News and Enterprise. This award is for Enterprise News. First-, second-, and third--place awards will be given in each category, provided the judges believe the entries</p>	<p>Best achievement in radio treatment of a feature story based on the reporter's own initiative in going outside regular breaking news events. Among the criteria used by judges will be fairness, courage, vigor of presentation, clarity of style, enterprise, artistry and restraint.</p>

<p>merit three awards. Among the criteria used by judges will be fairness, courage, vigor of presentation, clarity of style, enterprise, artistry and restraint.</p>	
<p>TELEVISION/CABLE NEWS -- Awards will be presented for outstanding achievement in radio and television journalism in two categories: News and Enterprise. This award is for TV or Cable News. First-, second-, and third--place awards will be given in each category, provided the judges believe the entries merit three awards. Among the criteria used by judges will be fairness, courage, vigor of presentation, clarity of style, enterprise, artistry and restraint. Entries from broadcast or cable outlets licensed outside New Jersey must be about New Jersey subjects to be eligible.</p>	<p>Best achievement in television coverage of a breaking or hard-news story. Among the criteria used by judges will be fairness, courage, vigor of presentation, clarity of style, enterprise, artistry and restraint. Entries from broadcast or cable outlets licensed outside New Jersey must be about New Jersey subjects to be eligible</p>
<p>MAGAZINE NEWS, FEATURE & PROFILE WRITING -- For a well crafted and thoroughly reported article about an individual, group, movement, trend, situation, place or idea of interest or consequence. It should make good use of the magazine, newsletter or online format.</p>	<p>For a well crafted and thoroughly reported article about an individual, group, movement, trend, situation, place or idea of interest or consequence. Stories for online magazine websites in the image of Slate or Salon or Vice are eligible.</p>
<p>MAGAZINE INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING -- For an article or series investigating in depth a public issue that would not otherwise have been fully exposed. A brief statement describing obstacles overcome and results obtained, if any, must be included with the entry.</p>	<p>For an article or series investigating in depth a public issue that would not otherwise have been fully exposed. A brief statement describing obstacles overcome and results obtained, if any, must be included with the entry. <i>Stories for online magazine websites in the image of Slate or Salon or Vice are eligible.</i></p>
<p>MAGAZINE BUSINESS REPORTING -- For an article displaying superior journalistic performance in covering business, finance, economics or consumer issues,</p>	<p>For an article displaying superior journalistic performance in covering business, finance, economics or consumer issues. <i>(Same Slate-Salon-Vice notation.)</i></p>
<p>MAGAZINE OPINION -- For an interpretive article, column or editorial taking a clear stand on an important local, state or national issue. The writer's ability to present facts fairly while marshaling a logical and persuasive argument will be a major consideration, along with brevity and wit. Daily, weekly, online only, and blog entries are judged separately and must be labeled appropriately.</p>	<p>For an interpretive article, column or editorial taking a clear stand on an important local, state or national issue. The writer's ability to present facts fairly while marshaling a logical and persuasive argument will be a major consideration, along with brevity and wit. <i>(Same Slate-Salon-Vice notation)</i></p>
<p>MAGAZINE REPORTING -- For an article that does an authoritative and imaginative job of reporting and explaining a significant subject.</p>	<p>ELIMINATE <i>(incorporated into the magazine news/feature/profile category)</i></p>
<p>NEWSLETTERS OVERALL -- General appearance, reporting, and sophistication of a newsletter based on how well it informs, how dynamic it is, and how it reports news of its field.</p>	<p>ELIMINATE <i>(Newsletters may submit articles in the non-local division)</i></p>

<p>PHOTOJOURNALISM SPOT NEWS -- Daily, weekly, magazine and online photography awards are combined into three categories — Spot News, Feature and Sports. There will be a first-, second-, and third-place award in each category, providing the judges believe the entries merit three awards. Among the criteria used by the judges will be technical excellence, drama, human appeal and an ethical approach to the journalistic issues involved. A series of related photographs will count as one entry. Both black-and-white photographs may be entered in each category. Entries from wire services are welcome as are PDF files. Video should be in QuickTime format. Entries published by media organizations outside New Jersey must be about New Jersey subjects. In the Spot News category, judges will look for a superior or spot news picture, sequence of pictures, or video that helps tell a deadline story clearly and dramatically.</p>	<p><i>Photography shot for any outlet (daily/weekly/online only/independent, etc.) is eligible. A single photo or a series of up to six photos may be submitted. Submissions will illustrate a breaking news event. Among the criteria used by the judges will be technical excellence, drama, human appeal and an ethical approach to the journalistic issues involved. A series of related photographs will count as one entry. . Entries from wire services are welcome as are PDF files. Video should be in QuickTime format. (NO VIDEOS PERMITTED). Entries published by media organizations outside New Jersey must be about New Jersey subjects. In the Spot News category, judges will look for a superior or spot news picture OR sequence of pictures that helps tell a deadline story clearly and dramatically.</i></p>
<p>PHOTOJOURNALISM FEATURE -- Daily, weekly, magazine and online photography awards are combined into three categories — Spot News, Feature and Sports. There will be a first-, second-, and third-place award in each category, providing the judges believe the entries merit three awards. Among the criteria used by the judges will be technical excellence, drama, human appeal and an ethical approach to the journalistic issues involved. A series of related photographs will count as one entry. Both black-and-white photographs may be entered in each category. Entries from wire services are welcome as are PDF files. Video should be in QuickTime format. Entries published by media organizations outside New Jersey must be about New Jersey subjects. In the Feature category, judges will look for a superior picture, sequence of pictures, or video (non-deadline) story not easily conveyed in words.</p>	<p><i>Photography shot for any outlet (daily/weekly/online only/independent etc.) is eligible. Among the criteria used by the judges will be technical excellence, drama, human appeal and an ethical approach to the journalistic issues involved. A series of related photographs will count as one entry. . Entries from wire services are welcome as are PDF files. Video should be in QuickTime format. Entries published by media organizations outside New Jersey must be about New Jersey subjects. In the Feature category, judges will look for a superior picture, sequence of pictures, or video (non-deadline) story not easily conveyed in words.</i></p>
<p>PHOTOJOURNALISM SPORTS -- Daily, weekly, magazine and online photography awards are combined into three categories — Spot News, Feature and Sports. There will be a first-, second-, and third-place award in each category, providing the judges believe the entries merit three awards. Among the criteria used by the judges will be technical excellence, drama, human appeal and an ethical approach to the journalistic issues involved. A series of related photographs will count as one entry. Both black-and-white photographs may be entered in each category.</p>	<p><i>Photography shot for any outlet (daily/weekly/online only/independent etc.) is eligible. Among the criteria used by the judges will be technical excellence, drama, human appeal and an ethical approach to the journalistic issues involved. A series of related photographs will count as one entry. Entries from wire services are welcome as are PDF files. Video should be in QuickTime format. Entries published by media organizations outside New Jersey must be about New Jersey subjects. In the Sports Photojournalism category, judges will look for a superior</i></p>

<p>Entries from wire services are welcome as are PDF files. Video should be in QuickTime format. Entries published by media organizations outside New Jersey must be about New Jersey subjects. In the Sports Photojournalism category, judges will look for a superior picture, sequence of pictures, or video that catches the action, drama or poignancy of sports.</p>	<p>picture, sequence of pictures, or video that catches the action, drama or poignancy of sports. <i>(IN ALL THREE PHOTOJOURNALISM CATEGORIES, WE ENCOURAGE BOTH B/W AND COLOR SUBMISSIONS. THE JUDGES WILL BE AGNOSTIC ON THAT SUBJECT)</i></p>
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<p>INDEPENDENT BLOG -- Entrants must submit three samples of their work to be judged on the quality of writing and news value. The blogger must be based in New Jersey or blog on New Jersey topics.</p>	<p><i>COMBINED WITH MEDIA-AFFILIATED BLOG INTO A SINGLE CATEGORY CALLED BEST BLOG</i></p>
<p>MEDIA-AFFILIATED BLOG -- Entrants must submit three samples of their work to be judged on the quality of writing and news value. The blogger must be based in New Jersey or blog on New Jersey topics.</p>	<p><i>COMBINED WITH INDEPENDENT BLOG INTO A SINGLE CATEGORY CALLED BEST BLOG</i></p>
<p>CARTOONING</p>	<p>ELIMINATED</p>
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NEW AWARDS – open to journalists in all categories .

<p>COURAGE UNDER FIRE</p>	<p>In honor of journalists who exhibit strength in defending the principals of a free press, open records, open meetings and transparent examination of public servants doing their jobs. We will allow people to nominate themselves, or nominate another person's work. Last year this went to two people who defied subpoenas—which were later overturned or dropped—and a journalist who refused to surrender his camera to police. (The police later admitted that the request was improper.)</p>
<p>JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR</p>	<p>For outstanding journalism in 2015. No need to apply for this honor separately. The winner will be chosen from among the first place winners in all other categories.</p>
<p>BEST MULTI-MEDIA PACKAGE</p>	<p>Honoring the best use of Web tools to illustrate a story, including use of art, interactive graphics, articles, video and stills, at least using 2 or more of</p>

	each.
BEST PODCAST	Open to print, broadcast and online media. Best on-going series of audio podcasts. Winners will be judged on content, production values and creative use of the medium. Submit up to five examples, each no more than one hour in length.